

THE PACIFIC
Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

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The Insane Asylum turns out to be a well-managed and worthy institution which will better stand a Grand Jury test than will most of its traducers.

If the United States law is good enough to stop strike conspiracies in town, it ought to have as heavy a hand for strike conspiracies on the plantations.

When an armed man, sheltered in his office and surrounded by a score of employees, thinks himself in such danger of his life from the attack of an unarmed man who is ten feet distant with a chair between them, the sooner he is put where his logical processes can work sanely, the better it will be for society.

There was some hope that the Prince of Wales would come to New York to witness the regatta, but now that he is King his transatlantic traveling days are over and the period of court mourning will be enough to keep his eldest son and heir at home. However, if the cup should be won by Lipton's new yacht the next race thereafter will, like the first one, be held in the presence of British royalty. So perhaps Edward VII will have a chance to see the contest yet.

Whether the Home Rule legislators who talk of establishing the South Carolina dispensary system here mean business for the Territory or for themselves, remains to be seen. Certainly their plans of dealing with the liquor question, if sincere, open up a wide field of debate which, we trust, may not be closed by premature action on the part of the law-making body. The dispensary system is a new thing and from the revenue point of view it seems to be a good thing. But from some other points of view it is said to be objectionable. Before anything is done about it, if anything is really meant, there should be a thorough discussion in the press and on the platform. We ought to look before we leap.

Col. Henry Watterson takes issue with the statement of F. Hopkinson Smith that Uncle Tom's Cabin was a wretched book and chiefly responsible for the war between the States, and in a remarkable interview says: "Mrs. Stowe's novel was merely a spoke in an inexorable wheel, which for the time being represented perpetual motion. But so far from being a cruel attack upon the people of the South, it was a most kindly representation. Mrs. Stowe begins with the sunny side of slavery in Kentucky and indicates its possibilities by traversing the career of Uncle Tom to a Louisiana plantation. But you will observe that the villain of the book, Legree, is a Yankee, and that leads me to say—what, indeed, Abraham Lincoln preceded me in saying—that the Yankees brought the nigger to America in their ships and sold him to the Southerners. I think it extremely unkind that, having got their money, they come down South in 1861 and annihilated property of their own creation. But that is neither here nor there. All the gentlemen of the South in the days of Washington and Jefferson were opposed to slavery. It was a wholly monstrous and indefensible institution. Even in 1861 the good men and women of the South were at heart opposed to the whole system. With a gray jacket on my back for four years, I was an outspoken sentimental free soiler. At Dalton, Ga., in the winter of 1863-64, General Hindman submitted to General Joseph E. Johnston, the commanding general of the Confederate army, a scheme to emancipate the entire black population of the South and to conscript them upon the basis of their 'white fellow citizens.' General Hindman took the expression 'white fellow citizens' from a proclamation issued by General Andrew Jackson when in command before New Orleans in 1814-15. General Johnston entirely approved this plan, but, the only general in the council of war who supported him being General Hardee, it was abandoned." Col. Watterson adds that Uncle Tom's Cabin is one of the great books of the world and wagers that F. Hopkinson Smith never read it.

DUTY OF AMERICANS.

We hope that every American who can attend the memorial services in honor of Queen Victoria, whom our religious contemporary, The Friend, fitly says was the common mother of all Anglo-Saxons, will make a point of being present.

The ties that bind the Anglo-Saxon peoples are becoming very close and secure. Old prejudices have nearly gone and the late Queen did much to expunge them from the memory of the American people. To her influence and that of her husband, the Prince Consort, is due the fact that Great Britain did not draw its sword for the Southern Confederacy. Her kindness to American women whom marriage had brought into the ranks of the British aristocracy was appreciated in the United States; and her personal messages to the President in times of national affliction and grief were so full of kindness of heart and womanly sincerity that they made all Americans uncover to her name. None of us can do too much honor to the memory of this great Queen; and none of us should withhold sympathy or good will to the kindred nation whose language, literature, common law and modes of worship are ours and which stand in line with us in the defense of the principles of freedom.

Hawaiian-Americans in attending the coming services will hold in grateful remembrance the practical sympathy of British residents on occasions when their own nation was in mourning. No subject of the Queen, resident in Honolulu, withheld his meed of sorrow when our people met to commemorate the name and fame of the murdered Garfield; and at the services in honor of the dead seamen of the U. S. ships Trenton, Nipsic and Vandallia, drowned in the Samoan hurricane, the Anglican church and community united with the resident Americans and Hawaiians. Blood was thicker than water then; it is thicker than water now.

THE PURE FOOD CRUSADE.

The Advertiser called attention some months ago to the need of greater specific publicity for offenders against the pure food laws. At the next meeting of the Board of Health the subject was taken up and Mr. Shorey, the Food Commissioner, was directed to frame his reports so as to include the names of dealers in articles of food or medicine which, on analysis, show proofs of adulteration.

In his January report, printed yesterday, the fullest publicity is given to offenders as well as to offenses. We find the names of three vendors of impure milk—M. Pechee, M. Cabral and, as might be supposed, the Star Dairy. In the case of the latter a ten per cent infusion of water is shown, which is an improvement of five per cent since the Lomba exposure. Mr. Shorey reports other cases of milk-adulteration by parties unknown, showing how much remains to be done, in the way of sharp examples in court, to stop this most prevalent and injurious of local food frauds.

Grocery and drug firms of undoubted repute find themselves on Mr. Shorey's list, but it is by no means certain that they are individually to blame for all the offenses charged. When a local dealer buys canned or bottled foods or drugs on the Coast and pays a standard price, he has a right to expect standard goods. He cannot open every bottle, every hermetically sealed can, and make a chemical analysis. Mr. Shorey does not say whether the drugs found deficient were imported or made here; but as he recommends no prosecution we assume that they were imported, in which case the burden of blame falls on the manufacturer. Publicity for the dealer, however, cannot, in justice to the consumer, be withheld. One result of it must be to compel the retail merchant to hold the wholesale merchant severely to account and to place his orders elsewhere.

That cream sold in groceries is kept sweet beyond its wont by the use of preservatives has long been an open secret. Mr. Shorey thinks the infusion of certain drugs can do no harm to a healthy adult but that it might be injurious to a child. Now that the facts have been given to consumers the remedy lies in their hands.

One conclusion that must be reached from some of the facts presented by Mr. Shorey is that a national pure food law, thorough in its methods and drastic in its penalties, has become a necessity. At San Francisco and every other manufacturing center, bogus foods and drugs are being made every day by the hundred tons. They go labeled "pure" to jobbers, then to retailers and finally to the public. Great consignments of them come here. The Hawaiian Board of Health can expose their character and prosecute dealers where the law affords a remedy; but the dealers are often guiltless of wrong intent. They should have protection as well as the public; and the way to get it is through a national food inspector on duty at the wharves whose business it shall be to sample all imported foods, drugs and liquors and condemn those that fall below the recognized standards of purity. When such an official can be had the work of the local Food Inspector in protecting the public will be much simplified, and dealers will be able to get what they buy or at least escape getting what they do not buy.

FREE STATES AND SUBJECTS.

The Nation, which is as much opposed to expansion as it is to everything else that stands for a virile American policy, lays down a current Atkinsonian sentiment as follows:

Wayne MacVeagh is another of those prominent Republicans who voted for McKinley in order to defeat Bryanism, but who reserved the right to fight the policy of Imperialism more vigorously than ever after the reelection of the President. Mr. MacVeagh accents the conclusions reached by Froude, that if there be one lesson which history clearly teaches, it is that free nations cannot govern subject provinces; and that if such a nation is unable or unwilling to let its dependencies share its own Constitution, the Constitution itself will fall in pieces from mere incompetence for its duties.

The authorities quoted are high but their plea takes too much for granted. It is not true that free nations cannot govern subject provinces; or that the Constitutions of such States must fall if they are not shared with dependent peoples. Great Britain is as free as the United States; its sovereign has less real power than the American President; yet it rules and has long ruled a vast, outlying empire, whose inhabitants have no seats in the Imperial Parliament and it has done so successfully. To call up a vision of Great Britain and India, or Great Britain and the crown colonies, is to refute the precept of Froude and the theories of Wayne MacVeagh.

We might add, in the light of history, that the only successful rulers of subject provinces are free States. Spain, an autocracy, misgoverned and lost an empire; Russia, an autocracy, has never taken over a province but to ruin it, as Finland and Manchuria are being ruined today; Germany's colonial tests do not show as good results as those of Republican France. On the other hand, Great Britain has built up a prosperous world-wide empire and her organic law remains four-square to all the winds that blow. Holland governs Java as it ought to be governed. The United States has spread over a continent, solved its "subject" Indian problem, and, if given but a tithe of the time which Great Britain has used in pacifying "alien breeds without the law," will consolidate a peaceful colonial empire and suffer no constitutional shock in the process. So much for free States and their genius for colonial dominion.

Arabi Pasha, whose name was in every mouth nineteen years ago, has been pardoned by the British Government, which has long held him in exile at Ceylon. He is a thick-set, spectacled, white-bearded gentleman, prematurely aged. So accustomed is he to exile that he now hesitates to take his freedom. As a man who made a gallant fight for the liberation of his country, Arabi Pasha is the most interesting of all Egyptians, but his day as anything but an historical memento has passed.

There is a marked improvement in the American part of Samoa where the natives have settled down, indifferent to the great issue of whether they have the Constitution as well as the flag, and are building up a creditable civilization. In a recent report, Commander Tilley tells of a visit to the American

islands and says: "I was impressed with the great improvement in the condition of the roads, the sanitary and cleanly condition of the villages and large increase in the planted and cultivated areas. I was most cordially received everywhere and was given numerous presents of food and Samoan curiosities." Evidently the natives are as well satisfied to be rid of the rule of their predatory kings and chiefs as the white residents are.

The kona was not so sharp as the one of some weeks ago but it made disturbance enough to warrant the public in waiting news from the sea with apprehension.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

Stopped the Sermon for His Song.

Signor Brignoli once agreed to sing a solo at St. Agnes' Church in New York. He came in late, and, after divesting himself of many coverings, tumbling over music racks and exasperating the choir by trying his voice, he came to the conclusion that he was ready. By this time, however, the sermon had commenced, but Brignoli, unabashed, leaned over the choir railing and tried to attract the attention of the preacher by shaking his head and gesticulating wildly. At last he yelled out in a voice that reached every part of the church:

"Me ready for ze zing. Stoppe ze preach! Stoppe ze preach!" And the priest actually cut the sermon short in order to accommodate the impatient tenor, whose voice now rang out with such fervor as to thrill the worshippers and justify the sacrifice.

Houseboat for an Ocean Voyage.

Samuel Ayres & Son, the builders of fast boats, of Nyack, are constructing a wonderful houseboat for Joseph M. MacDonough, a member of the New York Yacht Club and a millionaire. The houseboat will be ocean-going, and MacDonough expects to cross the ocean in her. If he does, it will be the first boat of its sort that has ever accomplished this feat. The houseboat is designed by Torrey, Lemoire & Crane of New York, and will be first class in every particular. The boat will be 100 feet long, 23 feet beam and 6 feet draught. She will have machinery capable of propelling her eight knots an hour. The boat will have staterooms and all the accommodations of a yacht. In fact, the craft will be as complete as a home and will be the finest houseboat ever built.

The Cakewalk in Mexico.

The cakewalk is universal, and the inventor deserves a medal for introducing it to civilization. In a recent journey through the South, says Victor Smith, I learned that every young man and woman dances it. Some go so far as to blacken their faces and wear black gloves to increase the illusion. Girl babies are taught it at the age of 3 or 4. Our New York swells traveling in Dixieland soon become experts in this strange accomplishment. Among those who danced it at Chapultepec were Henry Clews (imagine the dignified broker-author in a cakewalk!) James H. Hyde, Eugene Kelly and Prince Radziwill. Mr. Clews is said to have taken the cake.

Nervy Thieves.

About the coolest thieves on record did a job of work in Philadelphia a few days ago. Early in the morning, while hundreds of people were going to work, half a dozen men arrayed as mechanics appeared in front of a Turkish bath establishment in Walnut street, and with chisels, hammers and wrenches took down the handsome bronze ornaments and railing that ornamented the place. Then they calmly walked away with the plunder.

Fat Picking.

Some time ago a man died in Blair county, Pa., leaving an estate amounting to \$15,302 and no heirs. It was escheated to the State, but in the process of getting into the State's hands it was so depleted by attorneys' fees, and audits and other things, that all the State received was \$1,551. It would have got but \$351 if it had not been for the refusal of one of the parties in the handling of it to accept a fee of \$1,200 assigned to him.

Tippecanoe Monument.

It is announced that Congressman Crumpacker will introduce a bill in Congress for an appropriation of \$50,000 and the Indiana Legislature will be memorialized to make an appropriation of a similar amount for the erection of a national monument to mark the scene of General Harrison's famous battle and victory at Tippecanoe.

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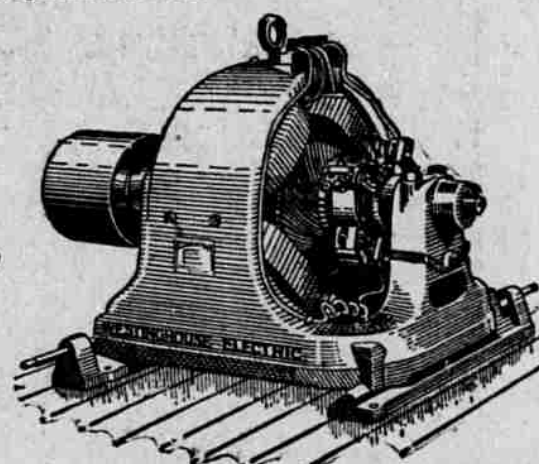
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